

A conference on the operation of Dominion legislation and merchant shipping legislation, arising out of the report of the Imperial Conference of 1926, was held in London from Oct. 8 to Dec. 4, 1929. This conference dealt with the power of disallowing or reserving Dominion legislation, the extra-territorial operation of Dominion legislation and merchant shipping legislation, on all which subjects its report was generally in the nature of giving effect to the definition of the equal status of the Dominions as made by the Imperial Conference of 1926.

PART I.—CONSTITUTION AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT.

Under the above heading a brief historical and descriptive account of the evolution of the general government of Canada was given on pages 89-100 of the Canada Year Book, 1922-23.

PART II.—PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Under the heading "Provincial and Local Government in Canada", a brief account of the government of each of the provinces of Canada and of its municipal institutions and judicial organization was published on pages 101-115 of the 1922-23 edition of the Year Book.

PART III.—PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION.

Section 1.—Dominion Parliament.

The Dominion Parliament is composed of the King, represented by the Governor-General, the Senate and the House of Commons. The Governor-General is appointed by the King. Members of the Senate are appointed for life by the Governor-General in Council and members of the House of Commons are elected by the people. As a result of the working out of the democratic principle, the part played by the King's Representative and the Upper Chamber of Parliament in the country's legislation has been, in Canada as in the Mother Country, a steadily decreasing one, the chief responsibilities involved in legislation being assumed by the House of Commons.

Subsection 1.—The Governor-General of Canada.

The Governor-General is appointed by the King as his representative in Canada, usually for a term of five years, with a salary fixed at £10,000 sterling per annum and forming a charge against the consolidated revenue of the country. The Governor-General is bound by the terms of his commission and can exercise only such authority as is expressly entrusted to him. He acts under the advice of his Ministry, which is responsible to Parliament, and, as the acting head of the executive, summons, prorogues, and dissolves Parliament and assents to or reserves bills. In the discharge of these and other executive duties, he acts entirely by and with the advice of his Ministry (the Governor-General in Council). The royal prerogative of mercy in capital cases, formerly exercised on the Governor-General's own judgment and responsibility, is now exercised pursuant to the advice of the Ministry. The practice whereby the Governor-General served as the medium of communication between the Canadian and the British Governments has been given up; since July 1, 1927, direct communication between His Majesty's Government in Canada and His Majesty's Government in Great Britain has been instituted.